

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS
Jen Rothenberg, Chairperson
Shirley Canniff, Vice Chair
Leslie Mayer
Donald Vitters
Elena Bartholomew
Crissy Tarantino, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission
March 8, 2016
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00pm for its meeting in the Main Room of the Senior Center on Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

Members in attendance included : Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Elena Bartholomew and Associate Member Chrissy Tarantino. Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly and Park Commission Secretary Deanna Healy were also present.

Members from the Public : Peter Hedlund, Cathy Garnett, Mike Nonni, Chuck Tyrone, Fred Bernardin and Marshall McCloskey.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of February 11, 2016 were approved on a motion made by Ms. Canniff, seconded by Mr. Vitters. Approved 4-0. Ms. Bartholomew was not present during the voting.

Open Forum - None at this time.

Arlington Conservation Commission CPA Request Review Spy Pond Shoreline

Mr. Connelly invited Cathy Garnett and Mike Nonni of the Arlington Conservation Committee to speak. Ms. Garnett and Mr. Nonni informed the Commission that a CPA application had been entered for a feasibility study of the Spy Pond shoreline erosion issues. Mr. Vitters asked if the ACC had support of the Friends of Spy Pond for this project. Ms. Garnett stated that they were on board for the study, but concerned about the vegetation and plantings, which will be unaffected by the study. Ms. Garnett estimated the cost of the study at approximately \$45k, and solutions could be estimated at \$100K. The application for CPA is currently for the study only.

A motion to support the ACC application was made by Ms. Canniff, seconded by Ms. Bartholomew, and approved 5-0.

Magnolia Park Final Design Review

Mr. Hedlund presented revised playground plans that included changes suggested at the previous meeting.

He also presented plans in the color scheme previously discussed. The Commission discussed possible changes in the colors and will make a final decision prior to construction.

Ms. Mayer inquired about seating accessibility and the granite blocks on the north and west sides of the playground. Mr. Hedlund stated that these were not seating structures. Mr. Vitters asked if the entryway post/fence can be fixed in place rather than replaced.

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Mr. Hedlund shared the revised budget based on new playground structure choices and the add alternates priority list. He also stated that the draft RFP was going out for approval on Friday, March 11, 2016 and the final design would be ready the following Friday, March 18th.

Ms. Bartholomew suggested tagging the granite blocks at the DPW so they were not used elsewhere.

The Commission discussed the edging around the playground and agreed that a system would be required to prevent mulch fiber from overflowing onto the pathways. Breaks in the edging would create access points for wheel chair accessibility and steel edging would help with the edge stability, if the budget allows.

A motion to approve the amended design was made by Ms. Bartholomew, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 5-0.

Capital Projects

Mr. Connelly stated that the electrical design for the Veterans Memorial Skating Rink would be out to bid in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Connelly will be meeting with board members from Babe Ruth to review the backstop repair at Summer Street and the results of the feasibility study. The Commission decided that the backstop is the prime concern. The Commission will move forward with the backstop project in the fall.

Ms. Mayer updated the Commission on the CPA application. All applications were submitted to the state coalition for review and the Robbins Farm project received high marks. Mr. Mayer stated that on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, Ms. Mayer, Mr. Vitters and Mr. Connelly will make a presentation to the CPC. Once the CPC approves, the project will be presented to the Finance Committee and then Town Meeting.

Special Requests

Mr. Connelly reviewed the following requests:

AHS Fundraiser Run – Summer Street Field- June 11th - Ms. Canniff motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Bartholomew and approved 5-0.

Calvary Church – Easter Service – Robbins Farm Park – March 27th - Ms. Canniff motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Bartholomew and approved 5-0.

Hedrick Ellis – Bishop School Basketball Hoop Donation - Ms. Bartholomew motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

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Ms. Canniff motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Bartholomew and approved 5-0.

Recreation Topic Areas

Mr. Connelly presented a draft of the Off-Leash Dog Statement. It was written in response to concerns from leashed dog owners regarding signage, enforcement and concerns about service dogs being approached by off-leash dogs.

Ms. Bartholomew suggested that Commission members observe the parks first hand.

Ms. Rothenberg shared that the Arlington Parks Alliance suggested a "Park of the Month" program to assist with maintenance and fundraising.

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn at 9:40pm, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

Submitted by : Deanne Stacchi and Joseph Connelly